

May 28, 2004

HAWAII MEDICAL VITRIFICATION SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION

HONOLULU - The Department of Health (DOH) has filed a complaint and order against Asia Pacific Environmental Technology, dba Hawaii Medical Vitrification (HMV). The complaint alleges that, among other things, HMV stored excessive amounts of untreated infectious medical waste at the HMV facility in Kapolei, Oahu and violated the State's solid waste rules. The DOH imposed a penalty of \$60,270.00.

Records provided by HMV show that between April 28, 2003 and March 12, 2004, over a period of 319 days, HMV stored between 9,724 and 90,239 pounds of untreated infectious medical waste at their facility, thereby exceeding their permitted storage capacity of 9,000 pounds of untreated waste. Records also show that, on 64 days between May 27, 2003 and December 8, 2003, HMV continued to accept waste even though they exceeded their permitted storage capacity and their processing system was out of service. In addition, in violation of their permit and/or solid waste regulations, HMV failed to notify the department in a timely fashion of permit noncompliance; HMV did not regularly test the end products of the vitrification process; HMV did not allow DOH inspectors to take pictures of an area of the facility that was potentially in violation of the facility's permit; and HMV altered or falsified their permit.

DOH cited HMV for storage of excessive amounts of infectious waste, failure to cease accepting waste while equipment is out of service, failure to notify the department in a timely fashion of permit noncompliance, falsifying or altering a permit, failure to adequately test end products, and failure to allow a complete inspection of the facility.

In addition to paying the penalty, HMV has been ordered to comply with state solid waste rules for the cited violations according to a schedule established by the State.

HMV has twenty days to respond or challenge the order.

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